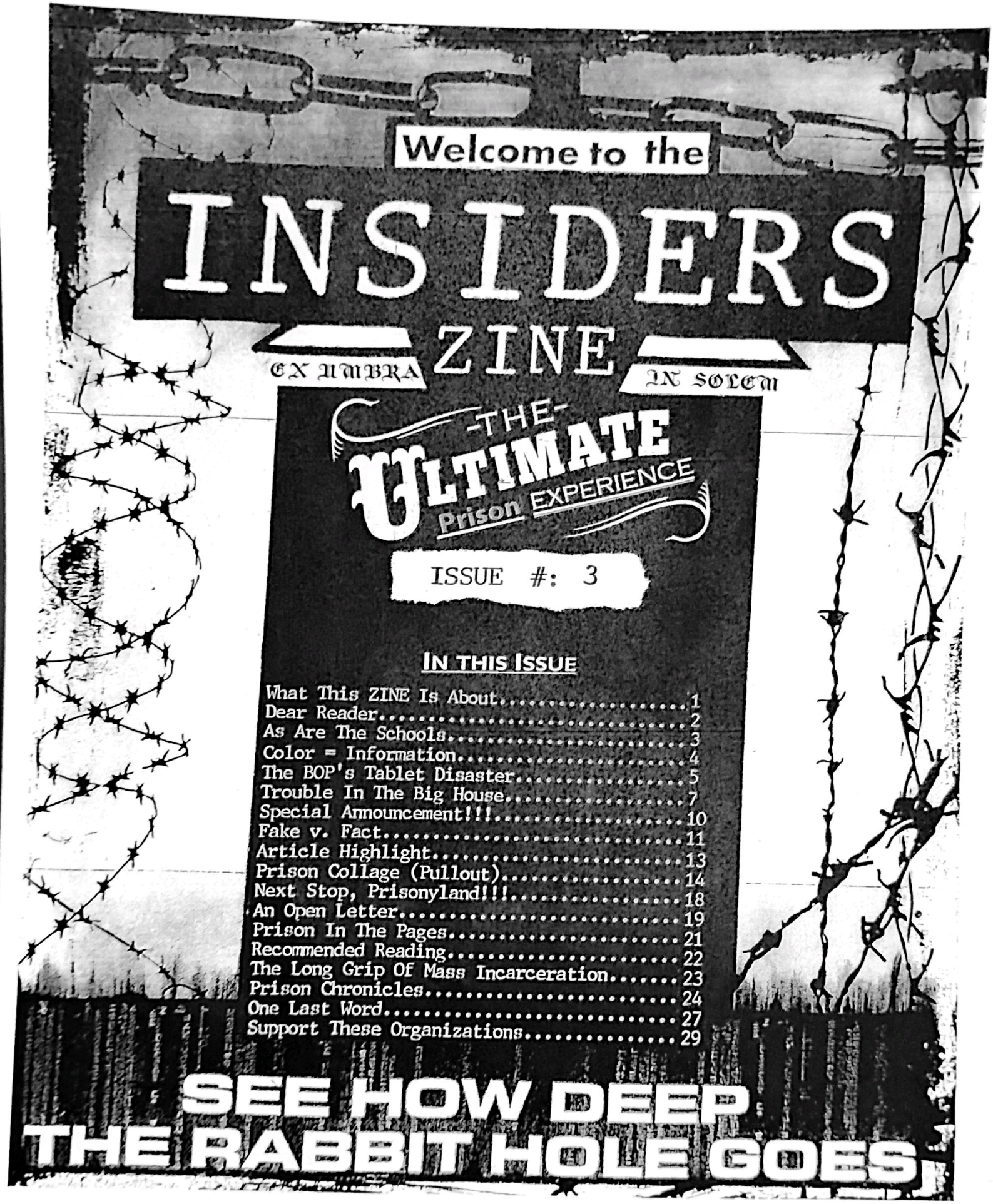
Welcome to the
INSIDERS
EX UMBRA ZINE IN SOLEM
-THE-
ULTIMATE
Prison EXPERIENCE
ISSUE #: 3
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SEE HOW DEEP
THE RABBIT HOLE GOES

Issue #3 -2025
Cost: FREE
Gifts of funding can be made to the following address...

Joseph Nichols #21647-075
Federal Lock-Box
P.O. Box 474701
Des Moines, IOWA 50947-0001

Money Orders and Checks only. My name and # MUST be on both the envelope and the check/money order.

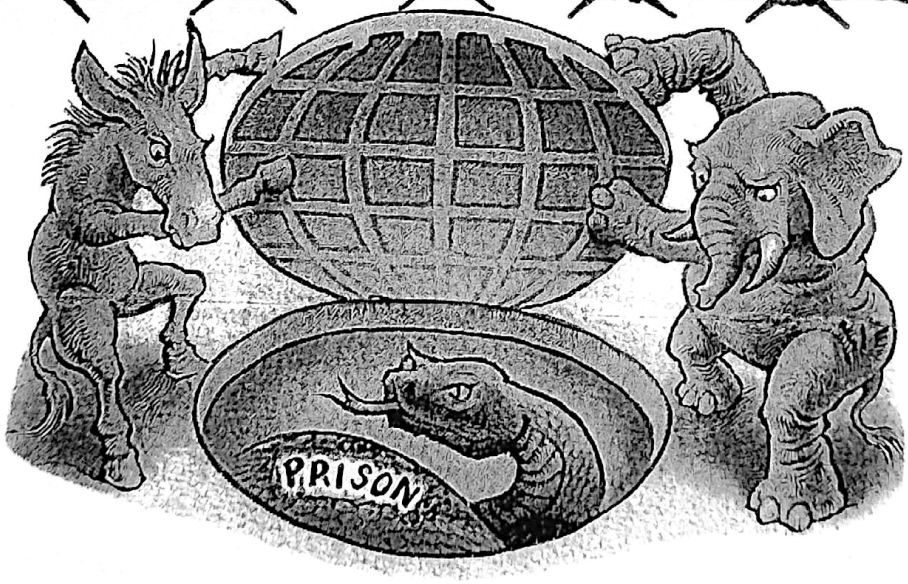
The men who have changed the universe have never gotten there by working on leaders, but rather by moving the masses. Working on leaders is the method of intrigue and only leads to secondary results. Working on the masses, however, is the stroke of genius that changes the face of the world.

Napoleon Bonaparte
1769-1821

WHAT THIS ZINE IS ABOUT:

This ZINE is made by an inmate to inform and educate the public to the gross abuses suffered by prisoners daily.

I do not promote or encourage violence. I do believe that 80 to 90 percent of prisons should be closed. I believe that other means of correction and punishment can and should be found. I believe that America has too many laws and not enough compassion in the courts, and that the powers that be forget that the ones that they are punishing are sometimes a victim as well. I also believe in change. Not only do I believe in it, I demand it.



Feel free to copy and distribute this, in paper form or online, as long as the cost is free and remains free.

Dear Reader,

Perhaps now that Joe Biden, the father of the 1994 Crime Bill, is out of the White House, we might stand a chance of getting Democrats to reassess everything he had a hand in. Make no mistake, prison is the Biden Brand! Going out on a limb, President Elect Trump, with his control of the Senate, could decide to undo the damage Joe Biden did. I hope he does. He seems to have a penchant for doing the unexpected. Let us hope he proverbially slaps Biden in the face and replaces or repeals the 1994 crime bill. It would be a two-for-one action since it was Bill Clinton who signed it into law.

In the meantime, I think the best thing to do is foster and build a unity among all of the organizations and people concerned with the state of the criminal justice system. We must unify and push lawmakers into fixing what many say can not be fixed. It's not that it can't be, it's just that people have no faith in the politicians' ability and willingness to do so. We must make fixing it in their best interest and stop allowing any kickbacks, payoffs, and insider investing. It is easy to slay a monster, just cut off what feeds it.

Speaking of which, We also need to stop buying the products of and from places that do business with, and help prop up, the prison system. If they sell their products to prisons, boycott their goods and services. Companies prey on inmates by knowingly selling their defective goods to us. It is time to shut that s#!% down! Go with a competitor brand, or go without. These are companies that are helping to facilitate slavery, torture and rape.

At the same time, let us all put our heads together and think of new and innovative ways to intercede in the policing and criminal justice systems. Get more social workers onto the streets, into homes, into schools and communities that need them. We must learn to rely on each other and not the police and incarceration. Stop calling 911 for non-life threatening emergencies. It takes away from that system and places others in danger. Mom calls 911 on her truant son and the police show up and wind up killing him, who is to blame? The police? The parents? No, it is society's fault for their reliance on a flawed and corrupt system. My Fault. Your Fault. Let us change that.

Yours Truly,

Joseph Nichols #21647-075

Most states bar inmates from voting in elections.

AS ARE THE SCHOOLS

In a lot of ways, school is just like prison. Here are some that will make you think. It is no wonder it is referred to as the "school to prison pipeline".

1- Controlled moves on the hour.
2- Uniforms worn by all.
3- Metal Detectors in the halls.
4- Arrive and leave on a bus.
5- Eat in groups in chow hall.
6- Lockers for all of your stuff.
7- Guards walk the halls.
8- Lessons are being taught.
9- Classes and programs are required.
10- Politics and cliques abound.

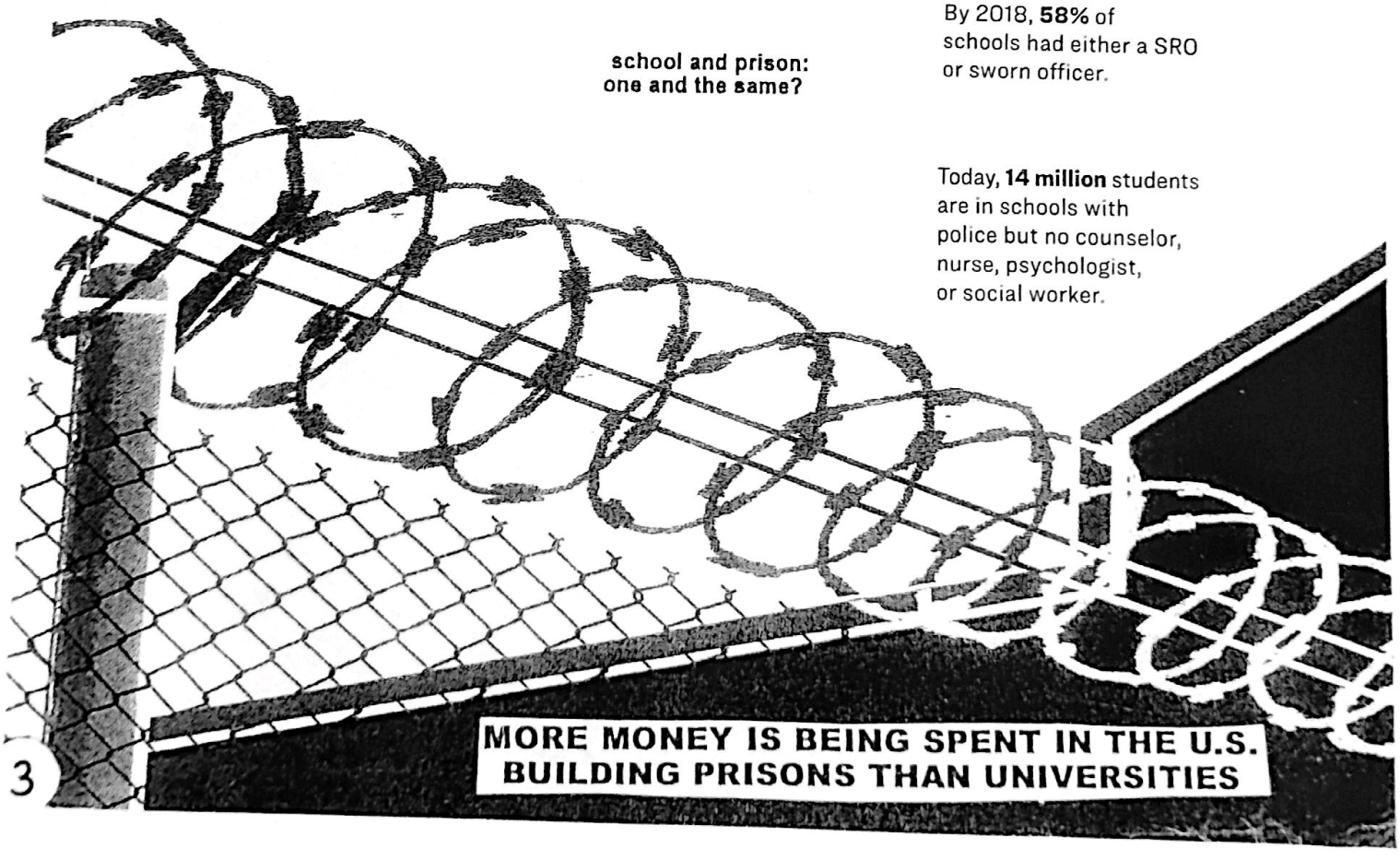
If this isn't enough to make you want to scream, what does? Enough is enough. Prison is NOT the answer.

In 1975, **only 1%** of schools were **patrolled by police officers**.

By 2018, **58%** of schools had either a SRO or sworn officer.

school and prison: one and the same?

Today, **14 million** students are in schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker.



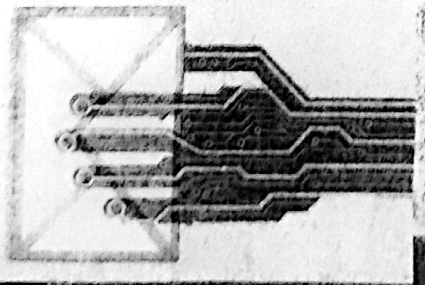
COLOR = INFORMATION

The First Amendment guarantees you the freedom of speech, the ability to convey information across all formats. Speech, art, self expression, and even news are all protected. Or are they?

Courts unequivocally agree that any abridgement is unconstitutional. When a person's ability to speak and express their mind is infringed upon, society tends to get in an uproar. This is why the BOP's policy of copying mail should be redone.

From a medical and scientific standpoint, vision IS information. Information is gathered by the eye, such as color, shapes, and texture, and is sent to the brain, which interprets the data, forming it into an image. Therefore, color is information also. How we see and perceive things can give them meaning. Changing them can alter that meaning. If I write a letter in black ink, but change one word to red to emphasize it, that would get taken away by a black and white copy.

All the same, a drawing by a child of an incarcerated parent contains the colors chosen by that child, who bases choices off of emotions, and can therefore convey feelings and meaning. Bright colors, vibrant colors, and dark colors all have different meanings for all people, children especially, and are used to convey their thoughts, ideas, and to express information that they may not be able to put into words. Would you be worried if your child drew you a photo in black crayon?



Removing the information of color can stifle a parents ability to effectively communicate with their child, spouse, or just a casual acquaintance. Not only that, but in most copies, the quality is sacrificed by time and cost saving measures. Quality is further diminished by uncaring guards rushing to get the task done. Pages are cut off due to misplacement on the copier, removing sometimes entire sentences and paragraphs. Family photos rendered in grainy, too dark or too light, black and white meaninglessness are impersonal and void of feeling.

Take this zine for example. By nature, it is black and white. Many of the graphics that I use are in color. Color which I can not convey to you. I can not add a splash of red to represent the blood that is on the hands of the criminal justice system... I can not show you the grime and mold on the walls in an easy way. Where a photo speaks a thousand words, I am limited in my description. I can not tell you anywhere near as well as I could show you. But I do not have the ability, therefore I am being limited by not being able to convey what I wish to express, in the way I could best express it. In color.

The system needs to change, inside and out. Every move forward is a step in the right direction. A step further to phasing out the 80 to 90 percent of prisons that are not needed. Changing this would be a small step indeed, but a step none the less. Stop censoring our mail and give us our FULL First Amendment right.

- Joseph Nichols #21647-075

The BOP's TABLET DISASTER: An Article Review.

The BOP has yet again missed the mark with the roll out of its Score 7c and Score 7t tablets. While they do come with a calculator, FM Radio, A few games and the ability to download more games, music and even movies from a secure kiosk (for a fee of course), you can kiss any other features good bye.

Sporting a stripped down version of the Android 10 OS, it can handle much more than the BOP allows. It has a front camera that could be used for facetime calls with friends, family, legal counsel, and even staff in diffrent departments, like psychology, medical and administrative staff. This would be a money and time saving step, but unfortunately this is disabled and is otherwise useless.

The movies it offers change month to month and range from Action to Western, and twenty-four genres in between. Not one of the options is Educational. They do have Disney, Marvel, Dreamworks, and other production studio films with titles such as Shrek, Puss In Boots, Toy Story 4, Onward, Minions, and Mary Poppins. Perhaps someone didn't get the memo that this is for adults? But to be fair, they do offer other movies along the lines of Top Gun: Maverick, 007: No Time To Die and Meg 2, but there are no National Geographic, No Discovery, No instructional videos, classes, lessons, seminars or other videos aimed at improving anyone in prison. Perhaps this is why some inmates are referring to them as 'Zombie Makers' instead of tablets.

It is the same type of treatment with the games. While there are some of the free games with cognitive benefits like the 'Simon Tatham's Portable Puzzle Collection', the rest are low-to-no budget remakes or knock-offs of other games across the spectrum of platform games, block breakers, arcade, shooters, and other wastes-of-time. They do have an Educational category, but the only game listed under this option is "Piano", which doesn't teach you chords, meter, or any other music related skills. Its only feature seems to be that of a controllable noise maker. The one game that they did have with any redeeming qualities was 'Mindustry'. It was deemed prohibited and removed from the tablets and system. They do not offer free content. They do not offer a preview or a trial period. There are NO refunds. Most of all, the games so far are of bottom shelf stock. They could add text based games that would encourage reading and rational thinking, or interactive learning games at no cost. But we're not holding our breaths for it.

In addition to the shortcomings above, there is no option to purchase Apps. Simple tools along the lines of Digital Journals, Day Planners, Address Books, Calendars, Reminder Notifications, Dictionaries, Language Learning Apps, Translators, Word Processors, Art/Drawing Apps or any of the many other useful tools that are easily available and would be immensely beneficial.

"The big thieves hang the little ones." - Czech Proverb

They do have a large font option and a magnifier available for on-screen text and graphics, but they lack other accessibility options like a stylus, text-to-speech or motion controls. In addition, they have seen fit to limit the volume with no manual override for the hearing impaired. There is also no monochrome setting for people with color sensitivity, and the brightness can no longer be put all the way down after the last update to the firmware. These oversights effectively restrict the use for the upwards of 32% of people with disabilities in prison.

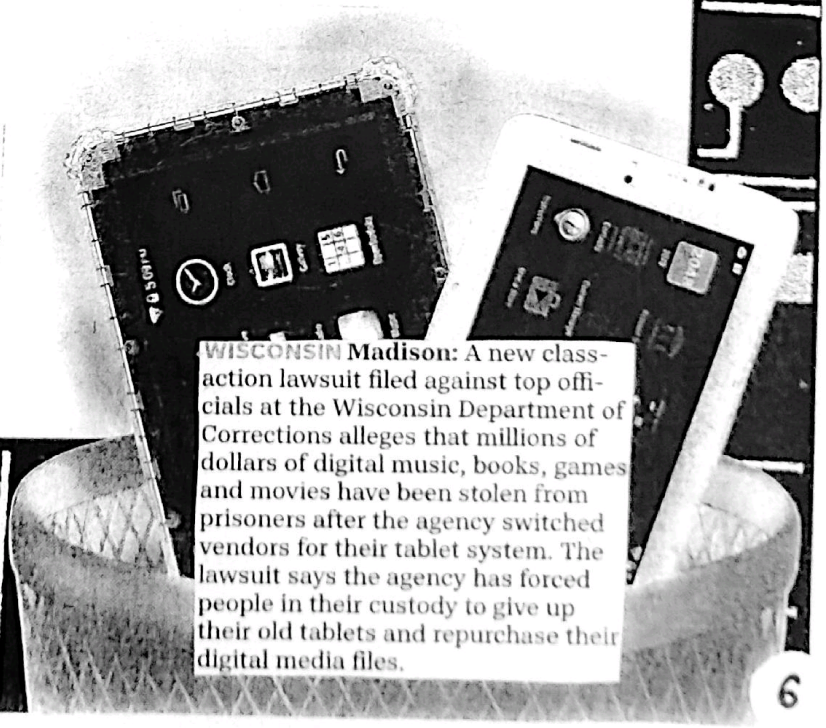
Further widening the accessibility gap, the BOP sells these tablets for a hefty price of $138 against their own policy of "no inmate shall possess any one item valued over $100. So by nature and their rules, the tablets are already contraband items to be confiscated at will. Additionally, this price makes it so many inmates can't afford them as many do not have funds coming in from outside sources to buy one. These inmates would have to rely on the meager slave wages that prisons pay, and that is assuming that they even have a job they get paid to do. Even with pay, a paltry .12¢ an hour just doesn't cut it in these modern times.

The Score 7c and the Score 7t also boasts a Wi-Fi antenna, but again, it is (as of May 28th, 2024) a feature that is not used. It could be utilized for active updates and notifications, inmate e-mail, printing documents, and things of that nature, but no... That would make too much sense.

By contrast, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) gives their inmates free tablets. Those tablets, provided by Securus, come with 350 podcasts, 30 games, unlimited FM Radio, a dictionary, a thesaurus, an encyclopedia, and news updates from the Associated Press. They also have access to the entire Guttenburg library of over 60,000 books. According to the TDCJ Executive Director Bryan Collier, the tablets "will be preloaded with education materials, some e-books, some religious materials. They will come preloaded with some music."

So why is the BOP so resistant to change, even when it is an obvious step in the right direction? As one inmate said, "Tablets have been available to the public for over fifteen years or more, and they are finally just getting some? This is nuts." This writer agrees. As to what they are good for at this point...

Joseph Nichols #21647-075



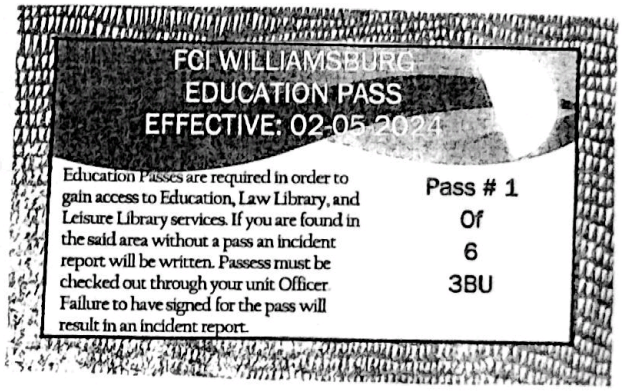
WISCONSIN Madison: A new class-action lawsuit filed against top officials at the Wisconsin Department of Corrections alleges that millions of dollars of digital music, books, games and movies have been stolen from prisoners after the agency switched vendors for their tablet system. The lawsuit says the agency has forced people in their custody to give up their old tablets and repurchase their digital media files.

The BOP certainly is not living up to the portion of its stated mission to rehabilitate inmates. It is an up hill battle for those confined within to better themselves or get anything productive accomplished. It seems more geared to stymie and debilitate, and not rehabilitate.

For example, there is a backlogged waiting list of inmates trying to get their GED and even though Pell Grants are available to inmates again, many prisons are built in rural areas, far away from colleges, and so there is nothing for those wishing to take advantage of education opportunities to take advantage of. The Education Departments of the BOP are often times complicit in this lacking as they are supposed to be a fountain of information and knowledge, yet are often found to be only a dry well. The Education staff at FCI Williamsburg have taken complicity to pure corruption.

During the Covid-19 pandemic the Education Department justly started requiring Education Passes, limiting them to a total of six passes per each of the ten units, affording only an additional twelve "spare" passes for inmates to use. This allows only a small percentage (less than 17% of the population) of inmates access to the combined Education, Law Library and Leisure Library during normal staff working hours. While this was great at limiting exposure during the pandemic, the pandemic is over.

With a population of around 1,200 inmates, only allowing in up to seventy-two is no longer practical now, especially when during the 5pm to 8pm open times a pass is not required. The cited "staff safety" is not a valid excuse either, as they often have more staff (usually 3 to 5) working during the times that access is limited versus only one staff at night when no passes are required and all 1,200 of us could show up if we wanted to. The passes are nothing more than an effort on the part of education staff to further conform their positions into a high pay, no work, "lazy girl" job. The less inmates they have to deal with, the less work it is that they have to actually do.


FCI WILLIAMSBURG
EDUCATION PASS
EFFECTIVE: 02-05-2024
Education Passes are required in order to gain access to Education, Law Library, and Leisure Library services. If you are found in the said area without a pass an incident report will be written. Passess must be checked out through your unit Officer. Failure to have signed for the pass will result in an incident report.
Pass # 1
Of
6
3BU

YE SHALL NOT PASS: Use of education passes hinder inmates from educating themselves.

So what happens when their overseers come calling for an accounting on the educational programming that they are supposed to be doing? Education staff compel inmate

workers (when not doing it themselves) to falsify and fudge records, making it appear that classes are taking place at the stated capacity, or even at all.

Between the three distinct areas of the Education Department, there is seating for inmates, with space and room for more, as many of the 3'x7' tables have only one or two chairs. Here at FCI Williamsburg, this would seem to be orchestrated by the collective of the education staff and enforced tenaciously by their bulldog-ish secretary, Ms. Alston, who purposely creates an atmosphere where inmates do not wish to remain long enough to learn anything except where the exit is.

Rude. Disrespectful. Arrogant. Vindictive. Those are all words that come to mind when dealing with secretary Alston. It is no small wonder that many inmates who would otherwise use the library have stopped patronizing it. Her placement here is not by accident or mere chance. It is by design. The goal of driving inmates away has been successful to say the least.

Other staff at Education are not much better. You have Ms. Elery, an instructor who is so caught up in her prejudices that she often drives away (or kicks out) all of her Caucasian students. Then you have Mr. Williams, who while his job as the head of the local guard union is well stated, I have not been able to tell what his job is at the Education Department. Ms. Taylor is needlessly antagonistic and petty. For example, she will go through inmates legal work under the guise of inspecting it for contraband, and will purposely shuffle the papers out of order. It would seem that the only Education staff member worth a damn is Ms. Berry, who is new, and therefore not yet corrupted by this facilities existing staff.

It is this atmosphere that holds back progress. It is why inmates are getting angrier and angrier with each passing day. This is not about having access to fiction books. It is about inmates not able to access typewriters, do legal research, or even make copies on the copy machine as the new tactic by staff is to refuse to refill the tray with paper when it runs out until the next day. This would not be a problem to inmates with their own paper except they have put a metal gate with a lock around the bottom to prevent inmates from doing just that.

Further failings of the Education Department are to consistently keep the A.C.E. classes going and to open the library on the weekends for those inmates who work Monday through Friday. Weeks and months are allowed to go by between classes, which are usually ten weeks long. Realistically there should be four of each of the available classes per year. Instead, there are usually only one or two. Instructors are paid only a small

stipend of $20-$25 per class. This makes instructor turnover high and willing instructors to conduct the classes low. Couple this with staff shutting down the Education Department early so they can go home, and consistently coming in late, or not at all.

There needs to be a reckoning in the BOP, and it needs to come fast and wide. The staff corruption has spread to the Regional Administration who continually cover for prison staff misconduct. Don't believe me?

Look into USP Atlanta, a BOP ran facility in Georgia that was shut down in 2021 and most all of its inmates shipped to other prisons before it was "rebooted" and reopened as a low-security prison, still ran by the BOP.

I was there from early 2016 to the end of July 2021, and was one of the last to be shipped. I saw the heads turn the other way as staff misconduct went on daily, just as it does here. Walk-throughs by Regional Administration and even the American Correctional Association, the same people who accredited the prisons before the BOP cut ties with them for looking the other way as prisons did what they wanted to do, somehow never saw nothing out of place. I see the same things going on here as I did in Atlanta. A place where, going on two years now, they have ignored a direct order to remove the spray on our windows that fogged them over, blocking direct sunlight and causing inmates to go through a myriad of emotional damage by a simple act of not allowing them to see outside.

They continue here to look away as staff bring in contraband. Not even hard contraband, but trivial stuff such as nice G-Shock watches and Designer eye glasses. It is still none the less contraband. They look the other way as staff mistreat inmates daily with verbal abuse, arbitrary group punishment, and lack of meaningful programming. Before long they will be closing this prison, shipping all of its inmates to other prisons, and giving it a reboot of its own.

- ANONYMOUS

FCI WILLIAMSBURG SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Aluminum Can Recycling Constest

HELP THE ENVIRONMENT AND WIN A PRIZE!!

CONTEST RULES

A blue recycling bin has been placed in each unit for aluminum cans only.

Safety will collect the cans each week (Tuesdays & Fridays) for recycling—the unit with the most cans (by weight) will win a popcorn party on Friday.

- If any unit wins for a third straight week, the second place unit will be deemed the winner and receive the popcorn party.
- Ties will be broken based on the previous weeks rankings.

The bags will be checked for other waste... if anything other than cans is found that unit will lose half the weight value for the week.

GOOD LUCK!!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR PROVIDING THE POPCORN

PRISON HOSTS AFFLUENZA CONTEST

Under the guise of "helping the environment" the Safety Department is encouraging inmates to buy and consume more high-priced sodas, which are high in sugar, caffeine, and low on beneficial nutrients over all. This is nothing but a way to encourage more spending. "Oh, let's reward the well off with more stuff" it seems to say. Why not just give the "reward" of popcorn to anyone who can not afford to buy the overpriced items they are selling us? Pure greed! Shame on you. We, like all people, are feeling the pinch at the checkout line, but we get charged an additional thirty percent, without the option for shopping around for cheaper alternatives. So thank you, but no thank you. You can keep your popcorn bribe. And you can keep your damn sodas too!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!! Discount magazine offers for prisoners are now available to you!

Tightwad Magazines, a small, woman owned business, has been providing inmates with discount subscriptions since 1999. With over 80+ mazazines to choose from and excellent customer service, Julie Sanchez has set herself apart from her competitors. Adhering to impeccable work ethics and her belief in karma, she has helped many the inmate to be able to afford full, yearly subscriptions to popular magazines at steep discounts. These great deals have previously been extended to the friends, families, loved ones and supporters of prisoners. Now they are open to you.

By nature, this is a mail-order business, so for now all orders must be done via U.S. Mail. Simply send a SASE (self addressed stamped envalope) to get their latest ordering information and exclusive offers. Don't forget to use their BONUS COUPON when ordering. As Ms. Julie would say, Good Vibes & Extra Good Karma to you!

*Current Deal (09/30/24) is you select 6 magazines for $28

*Already have subscriptions? Just renew with Tightwad for the lower price.

*More customers means lower prices for all - So tell everyone you know!!!

*Help support a great business that has been providing great service to prisoners for almost 3 decades.

WRITE TO THEM AT...
TIGHTWAD MAGAZINES
P.O. BOX 1941
BUFORD, GA 30515

Insider's Secret Sale
Pick 6 (SIX) choices for just $28!
TIGHTWAD
MAGAZINES
Coupon for Bonus Gift Magazine
with ANY order
Tightwad Magazines PO Box 1941 Buford GA 30515

FAKE v. FACT:
Common Myths About Prison

Many are the myths and false assumptions that surround prisons. Thanks to television shows, movies, and news media taking liberties with facts and only reporting the bad, you would likely never know the truth. Until now. Below, I examine the myths and false assumptions that popular media tries to portray.

INMATES HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

-No. "E-Mail" contact is done via "secure network proxy" and messages sent both ways are only sent once approved. No direct access to the internet is allowed. We can not access Facebook, job Sites, educational sites, or even do a simple search engine request. Prison is NOT rehabilitation, it is debilitation. One of the worlds most powerful tools to better oneself is not given, even in a limited form, to those that could use it the most.

PRISONERS CAN BE PAROLED

-Federal prisons stopped parole in 1976. State prisons still have parole but not at a rate that does much good. Other avenues exist for inmates such as clemency, petitioning the court for a reduction-in-sentence, and overturning your conviction. Alas, you would have better luck squeezing blood from a stone. Actions are underway to #reinstatefederalparole.

PRISONS TREAT MENTAL ILLNESS

-Inmates can request to see psychology, but since it is by request and not compulsory many that could benefit from it, for several reasons, do not. Reasons range from undiagnosed issues that they are not aware of, to plain and often justified mistrust. One exception are the inmates who live on so called "medical yards" for reasons as extreme as trying to cut off their own penis. Cases like this are rare and prisons that house inmates with that extreme of a mental issue can be counted on one hand. Most inmates that do go to psychology do so to exploit it for petty gains like cell-alone profiles and free blank writing jornals. Often, prison only exacerbates existing conditions or adds new ones.

INMATES LEAVING PRISON ARE GIVEN MONEY, CLOTHES AND ID

-Little to nothing is afforded inmates when releasing from prison. If you do not have anyone to pick up your personal property when you get arrested and go to prison, it is held for a short period of time and then disposed of. Clothes, keys, cell phone, wallet, identification, all gone. None of it follows you to prison. Inmates can apply for new identification, but the cost involved as well as the hassle it is to do this via US Mail is all on the inmate. Clothes can be mailed in before release, but if you have nobody to do this for you, then you are given roughly made release clothing consisting of usually a t-shirt and jeans or khaki pants. As to money for food, transportation, lodging, and other release expenses upon release, you might get lucky to get $20 to $100. Transportation is usually arranged by prison staff beforehand if you do not have someone to pick you up from the prison. Your other option is to walk. Loitering on the property is considered trespassing and is an arrestable offense. Of note, The BOP has started a pilot program to give releasing inmates an "ID", but it is not "legal tender" if you will. New York is also "exploring" giving releasing inmates up to $2,100 to assist with housing and transportation, food, medication, and other release expenses.

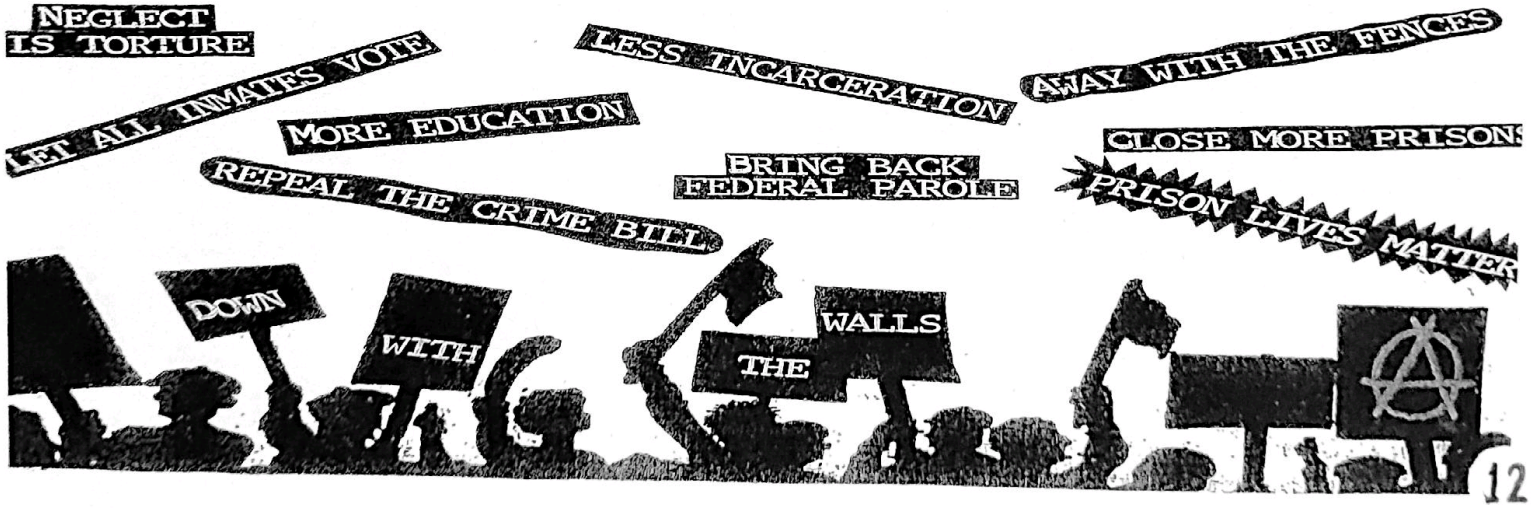
INMATES CAN VOTE IN ELECTIONS
-Not all. As each state makes its own laws, it differs. Historically it has been a common tactic in the U.S. to make felons ineligible to vote. Disenfranchisement is used by politicians to suppress inmates from voting them out of office (2.3 million votes is a lot). If you live in Washington, DC, Maine or Vermont, you never loose your right to vote. In most states you can not vote while incarcerated but you can upon your release. Others require you to complete probation or parole as well as pay all fines before these rights are restored. A few place additional hurdles such as petitioning to have voting rights restored. These laws are often old and outdated and are vestiges of the pre-civil rights era. Tennessee, for example, revokes your voting rights if you commited "felonious breaking into a house, outhouse other than than dwelling house", "horse stealing" and "buggery". Of note, you can also be disenfranchised for offering a bribe... nowhere does it mention accepting one.

INMATES GET FREE HEALTH CARE
-Most prisons and jails charge a co-pay that varies in price from place to place. Federally, this is two dollars. In county jails, I have seen it up to fifteen dollars. This, mind you, is per issue. If I go in with a rash on my back and foot pain, I get charged for each. This is even (and often) if they can not or will not do anything for it. Additionally, they like to only prescribe you things you have to buy from their commissary for a marked up price of 30-40 percent. One common misconception is free dental... Sure, I guess if you would like a tooth pulled, because they will not fill cavities, no matter how minor.

INMATES GET PAID TO WORK
-Prison is ran by inmates in the sense that we do all of the cleaning, upkeep, cooking, washing clothes, repairs, grounds keeping, painting and even teaching and tutoring other inmates. Many inmates in fact do not receive payment for their work. Of those that do get paid, it is about .12¢ per hour with overtime paid at the same rate and not double pay. Germany recently ruled that that type of payment is the equivalent to modern slavery. If Germany can make that declaration, what does that make America?

INMATES CAN GET CARE PACKAGES IN THE MAIL
-Not in the federal system. While you can have release clothing and medical equipment such as C-PAP machines sent in, it must be approved, which is an up hill battle most times. State prisons may allow some items sent in, but often times it requires you to order packages from a supply vendor. Often the prison receives a kickback from this. The exception to this is books, which can be ordered from places like Amazon, or other bookstores. Still, all prisons and jails put their own limits on what can be ordered, and can reject any package for any reason.

I hope that this helps to clear up some of the misconceptions that you may have about prisons. If you have a loved one that is locked up, don't assume anything, just ask them.



ARTICLE HIGHLIGHT

States move to ban prison 'slavery'

David Sherfinski
THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

RICHMOND, Va. – A growing number of U.S. states are seeking to close what critics call a loophole in the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery but still effectively legalizes involuntary servitude as punishment for convicts.

The constitutional amendment, passed in 1865, abolished slavery except as punishment for crimes.

Voters in California and Nevada will have a chance to weigh in during November's elections on whether to extend the ban to prisoners – following more than half a dozen other states that are part of the burgeoning movement.

"It's one of the things from the Civil Rights era that we're still fighting on and that needs to be changed," said Christopher Blackwell, an incarcerated person in Washington state who advocates for prison reform.

Even when prisoners are paid for their work, they're "being forced to work for a very, very minimal amount of money, and that is slavery," Blackwell told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

About 1.2 million people were held in U.S. state and federal prisons at the end of 2022. Of those, some 800,000 people work, many of whom earn less than $1 per hour, said a study earlier this year by consultants Edgeworth Economics released by Worth Rises, an advocacy group campaigning for prisoners' rights.

"Our jobs provide incarcerated individuals with marketable job skills, as well as soft skills, that help them land jobs when they leave our facilities," said Chris Wright, spokesperson for the Washington State Department of Corrections.

Prisoners' jobs in the state pay up to $2.85 an hour – among the highest hourly wages in the country.

"There are waiting lists at most of our facilities for these positions," said Wright. He said some jobs are offered through voluntary sign ups while others are assigned.

But a growing number of states are pushing for change. Advocates working on the anti-slavery push said more than a dozen are eyeing potential legislation that could protect prisoners' labor rights.

The current push includes both Republican and Democrat-controlled states pursuing the change, said Dennis Febo, lead organizer with the Abolish Slavery National Network, an advocacy group.

"We've had so many white people stand up on this and really make a change, and we've had people of color fighting (it). So it hasn't looked like race; it hasn't looked like political affiliation."

Growing momentum for change?

Rhode Island was the first state to ban slavery in all forms through its state constitution, in 1843.

Voters in Oregon, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Tennessee, Alabama and Vermont all passed ballot amendments to formally end slavery as punishment in recent years, though some are still in the process of implementing them.

More than a dozen other states including New Jersey, Texas, and Minnesota have recently weighed or are weighing similar legislation, according to ASNN.

In Nevada, voters will have a chance to weigh in on a ballot question in November asking whether the state's constitution should be amended to remove language authorizing the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a criminal punishment.

In neighboring California, voters will also consider a similar ballot initiative.

A spokesperson for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said they are still working on analyzing the costs of enacting the proposed measure.

The legislative process was an "emotional roller coaster," said Jeronimo Aguilar, a policy analyst with the advocacy group Legal Services for Prisoners with Children.

"The saying, 'As California goes, the country goes' – I think that there's a lot of truth in that," Aguilar said. "It's been moving nationally, and I think now there could be even more momentum to really ignite a wildfire that spreads across the country."

Lawmakers in the nation's capital have also been pushing federal legislation that they have highlighted around Juneteenth, the national holiday on June 19 that commemorates ending chattel slavery in the United States.

Opponents of such efforts have cited potential costs to states and disruptions at correctional facilities if the incarcerated suddenly earned higher wages or secured rights to refuse work.

Washington state lawmakers considered raising the wages of incarcerated people to the state's minimum wage last year, but the effort died amid concerns over the cost, according to the Seattle Times.

It would cost taxpayers $124 million per year if all those held in the state's prisons earned at least the minimum wage for their work, according to the state's Department of Corrections.

Another effort in California to secure a ballot initiative was derailed in 2022 after a fiscal impact statement estimated that boosting prisoners' wages could cost $1.5 billion a year.

A first-of-its-kind study released earlier this year found that ending unpaid labor in U.S. prisons could net up to $20 billion per year, with increased wage costs more than offset by allowing prisoners to better support themselves and their families, and boost their earnings after release.

"You're in here to rehabilitate and get ready to be back in society as a productive member," said Blackwell, the incarcerated advocate.

"They should be offering you work in here that would help you save money ... not just use and abuse your labor."

The Thomson Reuters Foundation is the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters.

"It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones."

- Nelson Mandela

"Here I opened wide the door, darkness there and nothing more."
- Edgar Allen Poe
The Raven

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Stop the vicious cycle

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'It's time for a new international convention that accepts that the war on drugs has failed.'

GUSTAVO PETRO,
Colombian President, at his swearing-in on Aug. 7

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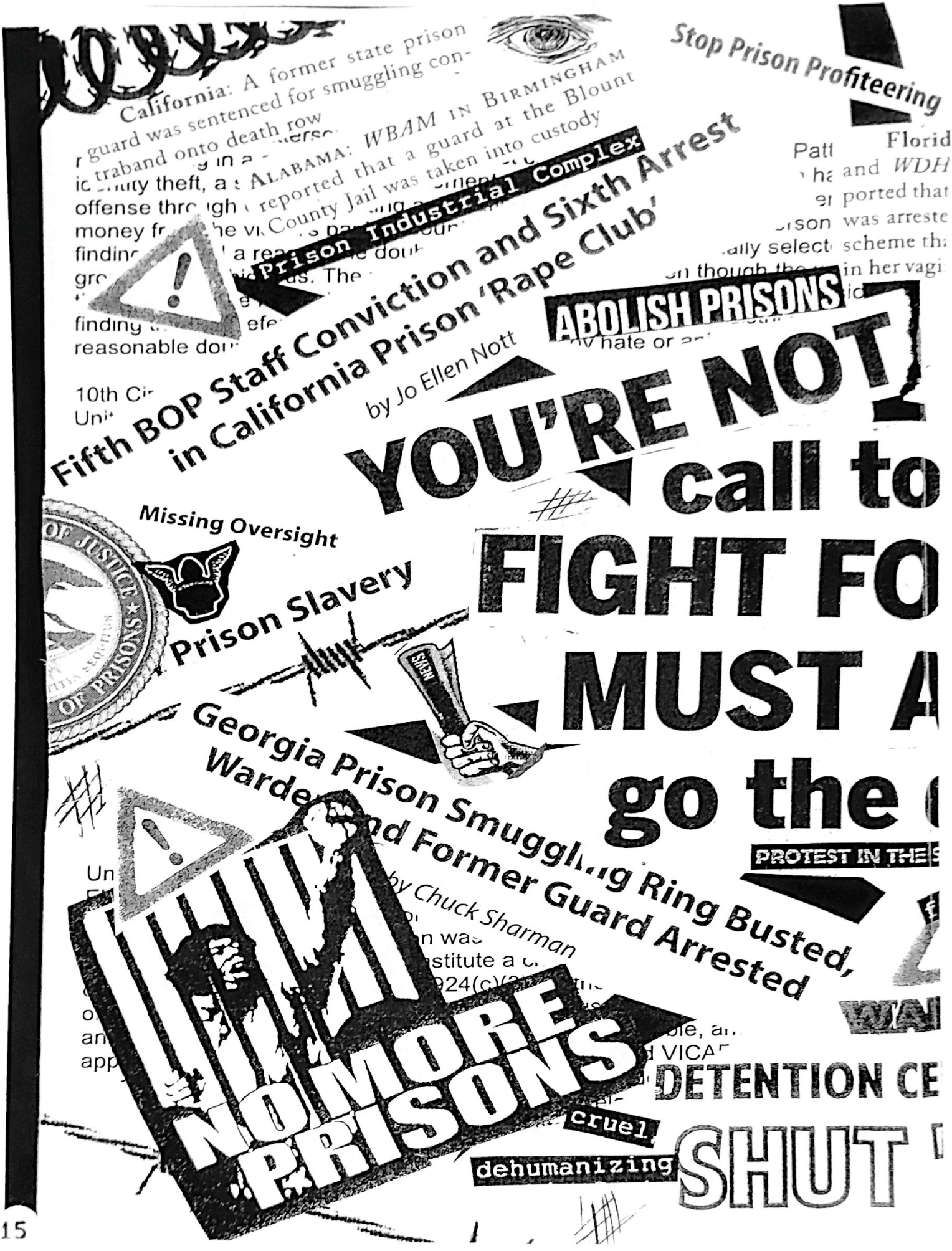
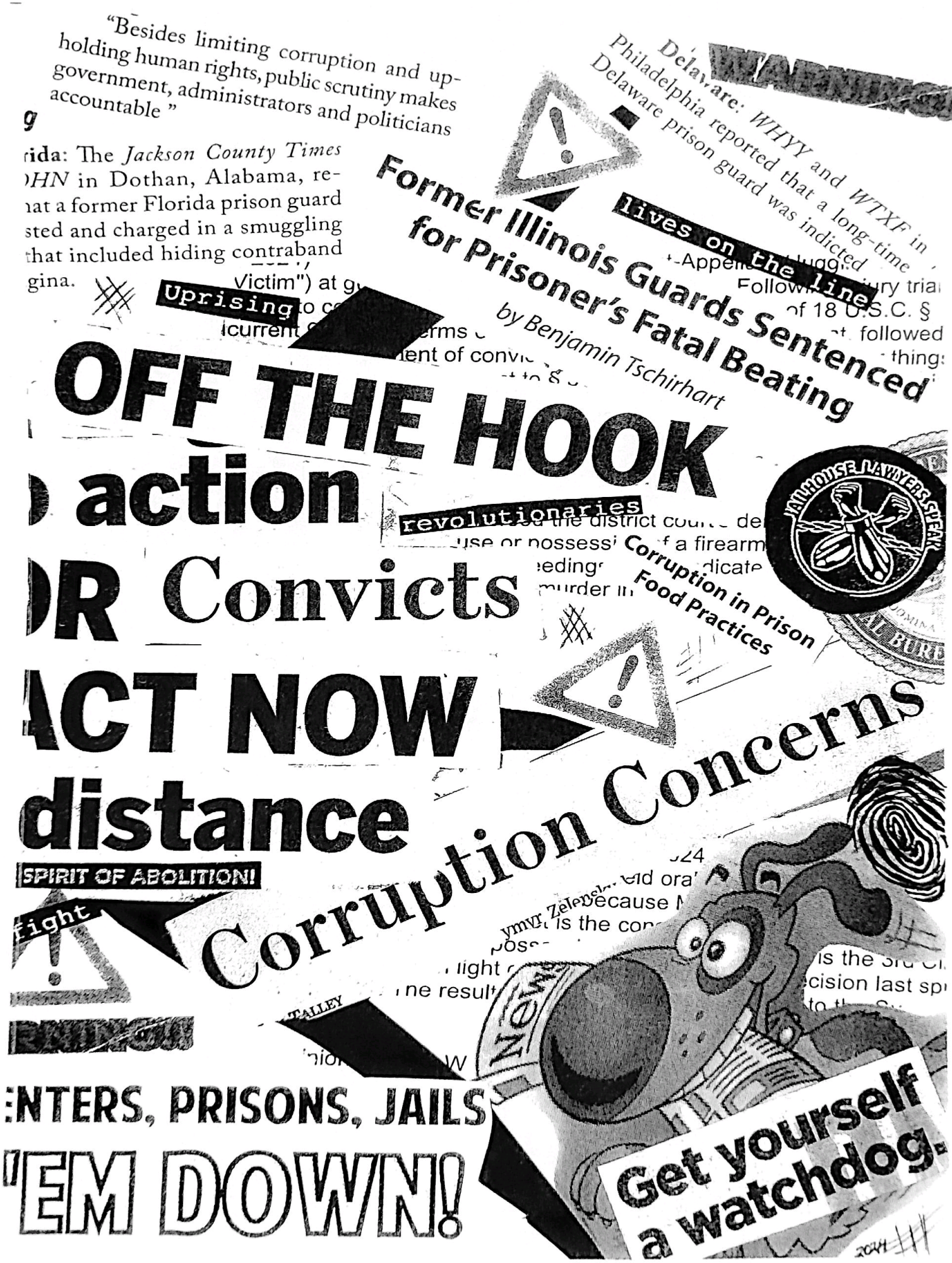
WTF Democrats?

■ Two Massachusetts lawmakers want to let prison inmates reduce their sentences by donating organs. A bill sponsored by Democratic Reps. Judith Garcia and Carlos Gonzalez would offer sentence reductions of up to a year for organ donations, thus "broadening the pool of potential donors." Inmate advocate Romilda Pereira said "harvesting organs" just "doesn't feel right."

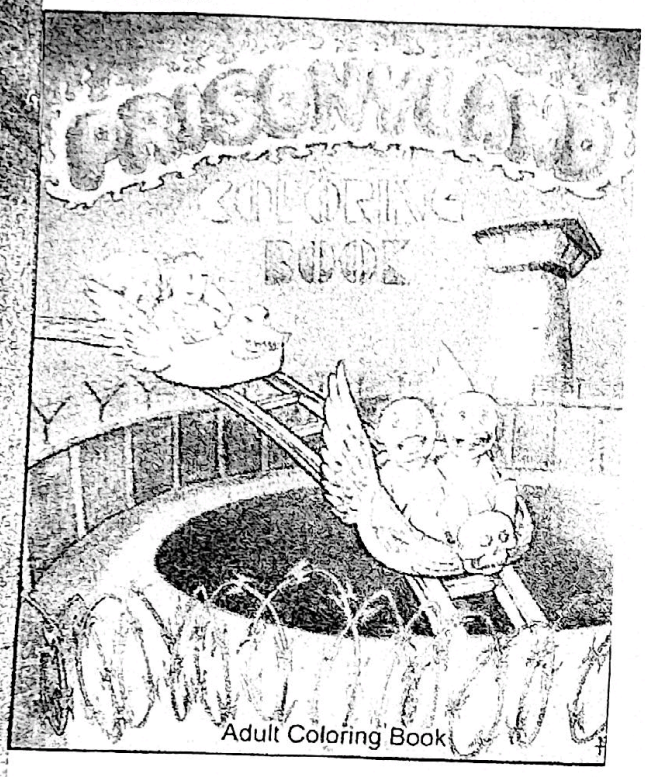

California: A former state prison guard was sentenced for smuggling contraband onto death row
ALABAMA: WBAM IN BIRMINGHAM reported that a guard at the Blount County Jail was taken into custody
Prison Industrial Complex
Fifth BOP Staff Conviction and Sixth Arrest in California Prison 'Rape Club'
by Jo Ellen Nott
Stop Prison Profiteering
ABOLISH PRISONS
YOU'RE NOT
call to
FIGHT FO
MUST A
go the
Missing Oversight
Prison Slavery
Georgia Prison Smuggling Ring Busted, Warden and Former Guard Arrested
by Chuck Sharman
PROTEST IN THE
NO MORE PRISONS
cruel
dehumanizing
DETENTION CE
SHUT


"Besides limiting corruption and upholding human rights, public scrutiny makes government, administrators and politicians accountable"
rida: The Jackson County Times
HN in Dothan, Alabama, re-
at a former Florida prison guard
sted and charged in a smuggling
that included hiding contraband
gina.
Delaware: WHYY and WTXF in
Philadelphia reported that a long-time
Delaware prison guard was indicted
Former Illinois Guards Sentenced for Prisoner's Fatal Beating
by Benjamin Tschirhart
lives on the line
Uprising
OFF THE HOOK
action
revolutionaries
Corruption in Prison Food Practices
JAILHOUSE LAWYERS SPEAK
R Convicts
ACT NOW
distance
SPIRIT OF ABOLITION!
Corruption Concerns
fight
TALLEY
NTERS, PRISONS, JAILS
'EM DOWN!
Get yourself a watchdog.

NEXT STOP, PRISONYLAND!!!

WHEE!

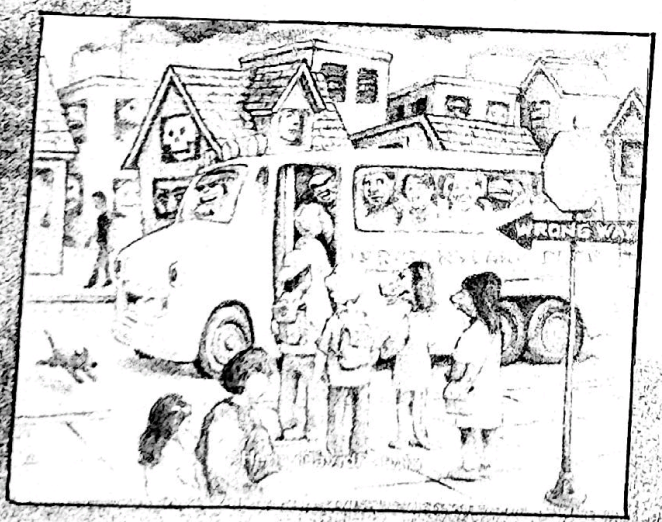
Take a trip with us into the magical world of PRISONYLAND and meet the cast of characters unique to the prison system in this coloring book for adults. Created by the incarcerated artist Henry David Potwin, this book is filled with scene after scene of symbology and the dark, wry humor it takes to survive prison, all wraped up in an uncomfortable truth. So venture through the pages of PRISONYLAND and enjoy Henry David Potwin's one-of-a-kind artwork.

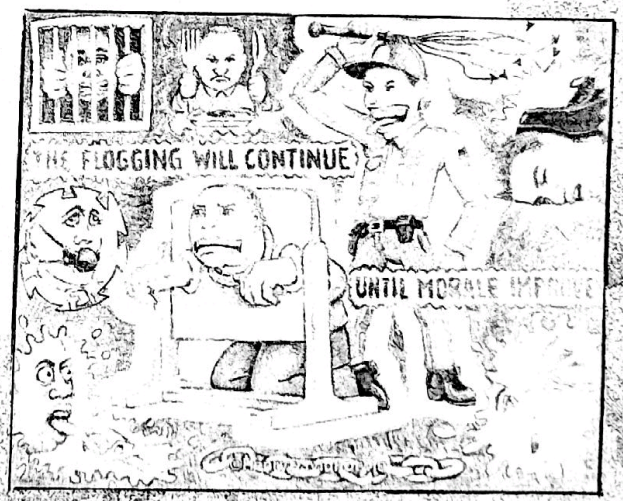


Adult Coloring Book

"When a person is involved in the act of creating, he could be anywhere, and the experience is the same. When you are ***in the zone*** *you are no longer in prison but escaped into the act of creation. I spent as much time as possible* ***in the zone.***"

– Henry David Potwin, Artist





All of his art titles and many of his collections can be found at www.henrydavidpotwin.com

An Open Letter

The following is an open letter to the United Nations Human Rights Committee and its members. After hearing the results of their pathetic tour in the U.S., I decided to mail it to them as well as publish it here. Feel free to post it elsewhere also. Their Human Rights Council offered "30 recommendations" after witnessing "shocking" human rights violations and "staggering" racial disparities in U.S. criminal justice agencies. If you never hear from me again... You know what happened. If they reply, I will include it in the next issue for you to read.

To: The United Nations Human Rights Committee and the leaders of all member nations.

From: Slave #21647-075, The Insider's Zine, and on behalf of all humans forced to live in cages.

I write to you, this open letter, to condem your lack of ACTION towards the United States Government for its many and blatant violations of multiple articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules For The Treatment Of Prisoners. You sit on the world stage and accuse other countries of crimes relating to arrests and prison violations, yet at the same time you turn a blind eye towards the same and similar crimes that America perpetuates against its own people.

The United Nations received a 31 page complaint from several human rights organizations in 2022 about the U.S. torture and wanton violations of the prohibition against racial discrimination by condemning people to death by incarceration via its extreme sentencing and lack of federal parole. Even both the UN special rapporteur on torture and the Committee Against Torture have recommended the abolishment of such treatment.

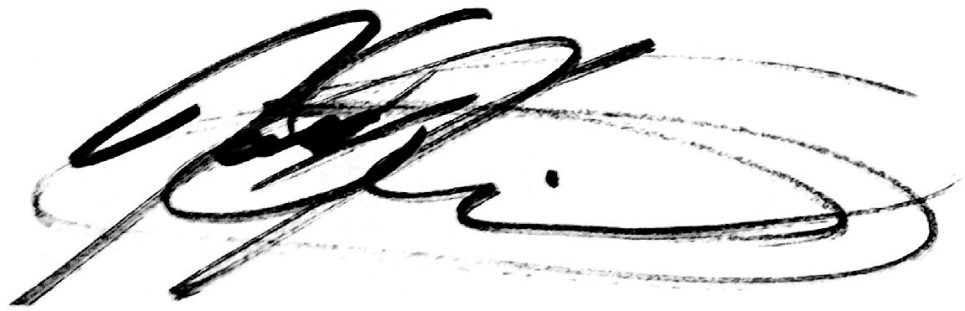
The United States subjects its prisoners to all forms of physical and psychological torture, and torture by medical neglect, solitary confinement, improperly handled and inadequate food, illegal censoring of books, retaliation through unnecessary searches, intimidation, constant threats, substandard education, lack of meaningful programming, forced work for low-to-no pay, group punishment, assault, rape and more.

The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights is a document that recognized "the equal and INALIENABLE rights of ALL members of the human family" and further pledged to "secure their UNIVERSAL and effective recognition and OBSERVANCE". The UN has NOT lived up to this. The United States has never signed it.

Just this year, you conducted a human rights tour of the United States, and you yet again failed to do anything other than release a list of recommendations. Under human rights laws, governments have a responsibility to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of ALL people. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and other international treaties are continually ignored by United States officials. Documents that are supposed to prevent torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment are routinely not enforced against the United States. Offenses such as forced sex and sexual contact, freedom from abusive strip searches, freedom from demeaning language, the right to dignity, the right to receive medication, and the right to pre-natal care are all infringed upon DAILY in the United States. Even slavery is ignored.

Report after report is released by the United Nations Human Rights Council, and with them are recommendations that the United States continues to ignore. You do not recommend rapes and slavery stop, you DEMAND it. These are violations that warrant world wide sanctions to force them to stop.

It is lost on no one that the land that the UN Headquarters is on in the United States was donated by John D Rockefeller Sr., the father of Nelson Rockefeller, who notoriously ordered the state police in New York to stage an assault on Attica Prison, thus killing thirty nine of the inmates AND guards. This is the same Nelson Rockefeller who tried to have the autopsies of the murdered prison guards altered to cover up that it was in fact the bullets that killed them and not the knives of the inmates... You want to help us? Start there. Denounce the American Government and its lack of compliance with International Human Rights Laws. Denounce the land that your American Headquarters is on. Levy heavy sanctions on the United States unanimously. To stand up for someone, you must first put your foot down. It is time to write the next chapter of world history. Where will it say you stood?



"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

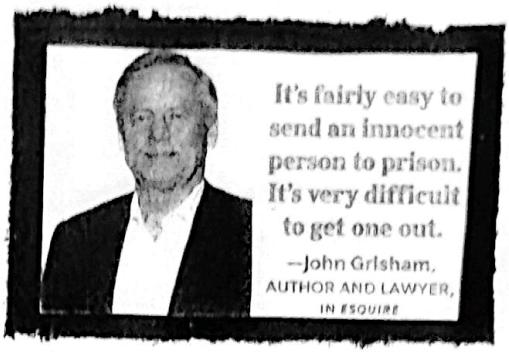
- Martin Luther King Jr.

PRISON IN THE PAGES

Recently, I have noticed something that made me delve deeper into fiction books. Many mention prisons, but when prison is mentioned, it is in a light not favorable to the prison system. In fact, some of them are quite critical of them. Most are strikingly accurate. Here are a few of my favorite ones that I have found.

"Vasher had always found it interesting that the men who watched dungeons tended to be as bad as, or worse than, the men they guarded. Perhaps that was deliberate. Society didn't seem to care if such men were outside the cells or in them, so long as they were kept away from more honest men."

[Brandon Sanderson - WARBREAKER]


It's fairly easy to send an innocent person to prison. It's very difficult to get one out.
—John Grisham, AUTHOR AND LAWYER, IN ESQUIRE

"You know the classic reasons given for punishing crimes, Aaron? To condition away bad behavior--doesn't work. A deterrent--useless. To rehabilitate--that's a joke. To protect society--well, only if we execute the bad guys or keep them locked up forever. No, you know the real reason why we punish? We're ashamed to admit it. But, oh, how we love it. Good old biblical retribution. Bloody revenge is the only honest motive for punishment. Why? Because its purpose is to take away the "victim's pain."

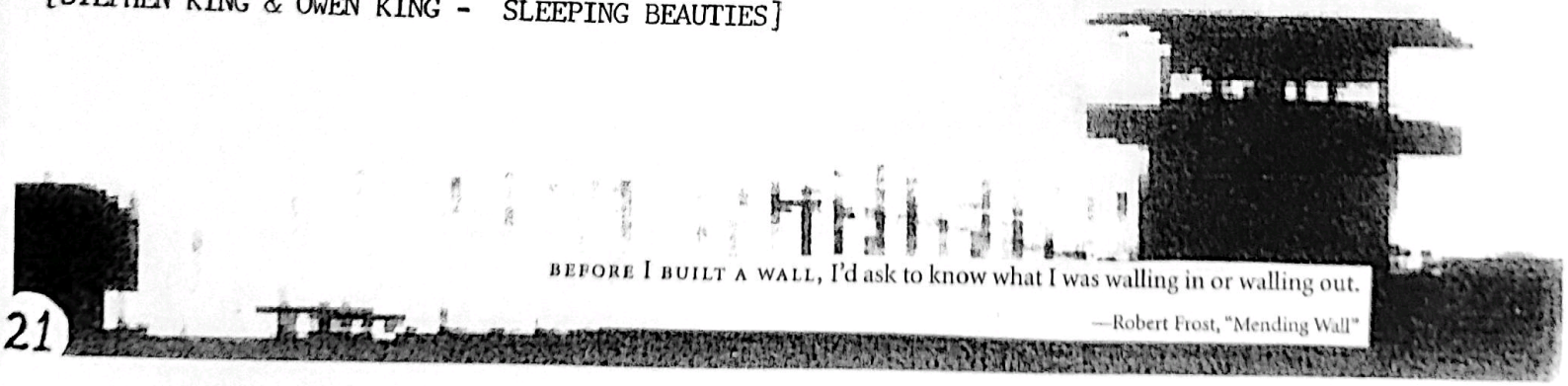
[Jeffery Deaver - SPEAKING IN TONGUES]

"They'd been stripped in the van that had smashed into their cars and given jumpsuits to wear. All their jewelry was removed and instead of shoes they had rubber flip-flops. They were given two meals a day and Merick's cell had a hole in the floor for a toilet that blew hot air and sand whenever the wind picked up outside. Since being dumped into the prison the jailers had only come around to feed them."

[CLIVE CUSSLER - SKELETON COAST]

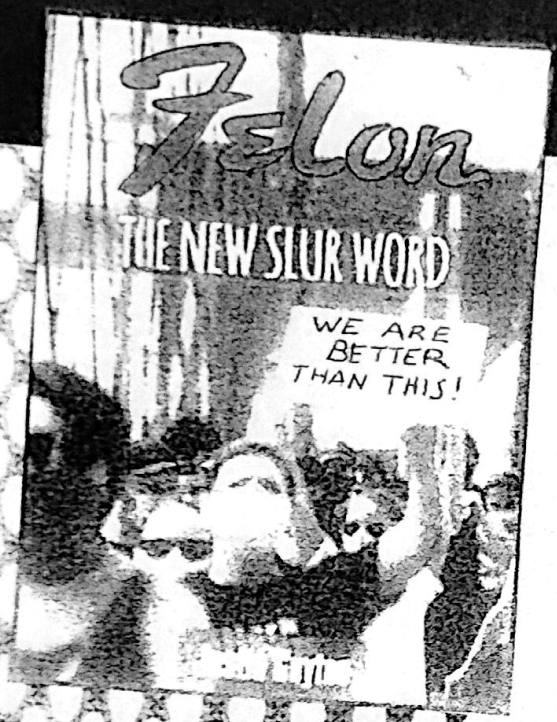
"On the prison's last night, the weather cleared and the rain clouds of the day were blown south by a steady wind, leaving the sky to the stars and inviting the animals to stick their heads up, and sniff, and converse. No seventy-two hours. No second thoughts. A change was coming tomorrow. The animals felt it the way they felt oncoming thunderstorms."

[STEPHEN KING & OWEN KING - SLEEPING BEAUTIES]



RECOMMENDED READING

Enjoy!

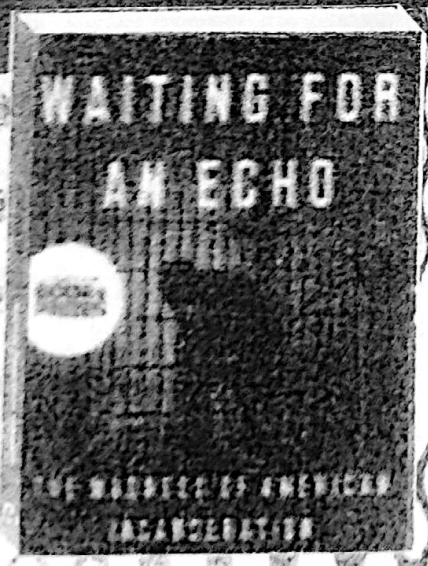


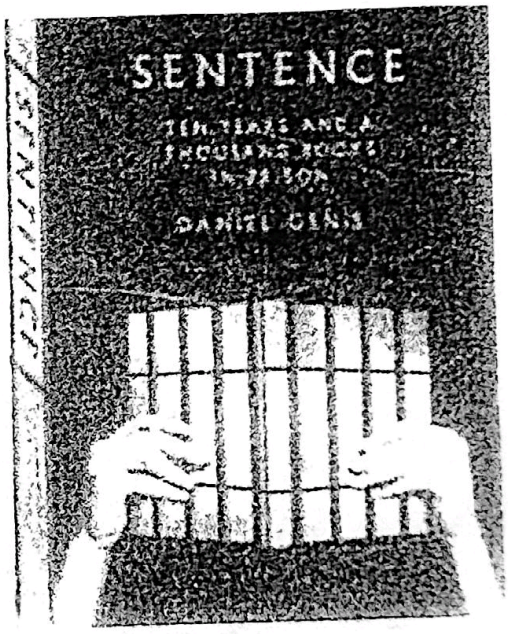
FELON: THE NEW SLUR WORD
By: Justin Guyton

This book examines and demonstrates how and why the term "felon" is used to discriminate against those with criminal convictions. This is a brief but informative look at the inner workings of the American Justice System.

WAITING FOR AN ECHO: THE MADNESS OF AMERICAN INCARCEREATION
By: Christine Montross

A rarely seen glimpse into American jails and prisons. It is a damning account of policies that have criminalized mental illness, shifting large numbers of people who belong in therapeutic settings into punitive ones.





SENTENCE: TEN YEARS AND A THOUSAND BOOKS IN PRISON
By: Daniel Genis

A strikingly powerful memoir of the brutalities of prison and how one man survived them-all while trying to preserve his relationship with his wife, whom he recently married.

The Long Grip of Mass Incarceration

Mass incarceration is part of the **carceral state** but not its limit. The carceral state "includes police, criminal courts, probation and parole, criminal records databases and risk-assessment tools, brick-and-mortar incarceration, and 'e-carceration' with electronic shackles."

2.3M people are incarcerated in the US.

5M people are on probation or under parole supervision at risk of imprisonment.

1 in 40 US residents is currently under some form of correctional control.

Almost **149 million** people—**45%** of the population—have had an immediate family member incarcerated.

More than **46 million** people—**14%** of the population—have had an immediate family member imprisoned for more than a year.

About **1 in 40** US adult residents is currently under some form of correctional control...

1,430,800 people in prisons

3,540,000 on probation

738,400 in local jails

878,000 on parole

In the federal prison system, over 60% are imprisoned for drug law violations.

the drug war is a huge success, it makes billions of dollars for the companies and government agencies that support it.

WE WANT YOU!

"Law is a bottomless pit; it is a cormorant, a harpy that devours everything."

- Jonathan Swift

PRISON CHRONICLES

This section goes department by department in the facility I am at and points out its deficiencies and sometimes even its criminality. It's not just inmates that should be held accountable. Sometimes the most sadistic people in prison are the ones who work there.

ADMINISTRATION: This area consists of wardens, assistant wardens, captains, lieutenants and the like. They are the ones who are supposed to make sure that things go smoothly and safely on a day to day basis. In short, they are the ones in charge of the prison. So far this year, Administration has continued to ignore a direct order from the Bureau of Prisons Regional Office to remove the frosted spray on inmates windows that obscure all view of the outside world. Further, a guard that many consider "one of the good ones" killed him self in the prisons parking lot because he found out that the captain was screwing his wife who is incidentally the Health Service Administrator here at the same prison. To top that off, we are currently running with only an "acting" warden as our normal warden is no longer here. (And we weren't told why.) So suffice it to say, this is an area that is lacking. One of their favorite tactics to deal with problems caused by a select few of the inmates is to punish all of us, which by the by, is ILLEGAL and against the United Nations Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. This all should tell you the overall state of the entire prison.

EDUCATION: Nothing has changed for the better in this department since last year. In fact, it has only gotten worse. If you haven't yet read the article in here titled "Trouble in the Big House" you should do so. In addition to that problem, they have also fired most of the inmate library staff for some vague reason that is still obscure. The collection of inmates they have running the library have no clue what they are doing and don't know a Georgia O'Keefe from George R. R. Martin.

FACILITIES: This department is in charge of making sure broken things get fixed... yet they do not. Inmates routinely are forced to sit in dark cells for weeks at a time because the guards in charge are too lazy to flick a breaker. Not only that, but they saw fit to paint over the no-slip-surface in front of the showers so now the floor is dangerously slippery in front of the showers when wet, which since they are showers, is all the time. Not only that, but the showers are not ADA compliant as they do not have hand rails.

FOOD/CHOW HALL: If this was a restaurant on the outside world, subjected to the same standards and graded by Health Inspectors, it wouldn't just be shut down, criminal charges would be brought. Improper food storage, internal food temperatures not within proper ranges, spoiled foods being mixed in with good food to "get rid of it", and food labeled "not for human consumption - military and institutional use only!" being served. Then, there are the ever present flies and roaches, backed up sewage drains that have the chow hall smelling like fecal matter, and broken seating on the attached tables that has sharp edges or are unstable. They also love to give out forks with cereal and spoons with spaghetti noodles just to be funny or due to incompetence I'm not sure...

HOUSING AREAS: So while the unit reserved for B.R.A.V.E. inmates has nice, motivational murals on the walls and their lighting dimmed to a comfortable level, the other housing units are stark white walls streaked with rust water in places due to leaky roofs and pipes, brightly lit with harsh florescent lighting for most of the day and night. They are drab and depressing. What is done for one, or in this case an entire unit, must be done for all, right? Wrong. Any inquiries into possibly painting our walls in such fashion only receives eye rolls and scoffs. In addition to that, the air ducts drip what I can only hope is condensation onto peoples heads, and sometimes into drinks and food.

Complaints about this problem are resolved with a scrap blanket on the floor or a mop bucket to catch the offending droplets. This is the responsibility of the Unit Managers, who are too busy avoiding the units, and the people in them, so that they don't have to do their jobs, to care. Oh yeah, and the windows in the cells STILL have the spray on frosting on them.

INMATE MAIL: The staff over this department do just what ever they wish to do. Inmate legal mail is NOT supposed to be opened outside of the presence of the inmate, nor is it supposed to be copied, yet they repeatedly do just that. Mail is returned to sender for false reasons just because the mail room staff have too much to process in a day and don't want to deal with it. Mail has been sent to friends and families of inmates marked saying they are no longer at this institution, needlessly causing undue grief and needless worry. Photos are denied as "lewd" instead of to the standard of "sexually explicit" as laid out in the policy, of which they are supposed to follow. Books sent to inmates are often returned with vague or false denials, and not just the offending book, but the entire package. Mail room staff when asked postage costs for certain mailings just quote what ever they want, which is more often than not wrong and way over the actual cost. They do this instead of actually looking up the correct postage or even by providing current postage charts which they are supposed to do by policy. Often time mail is rejected without inmates being given a notice of rejection, which is required. Mail is often delayed, lost, damaged or just never mailed. For instance, one inmate tried to mail home a box of books that cost $90 on postage, which he paid for... The box was never mailed out, the money for the postage was kept, and the books in question wound up in the library with "Property of FCI Williamsburg" on them, despite the inmates name clearly on the sides already.

MEDICAL/DENTAL: What can I say about a portion of the prison system that has had more lawsuits filed on it than an encyclopedia set could contain. Look at it this way, no one wakes up one day and says, "gee, I think I want to be a doctor/nurse/dentist... in the prison system. These are the people that can't be employed in the public OR private sector. Therefore, they are just right for the Bureau of Prisons. This place is a malpractice lawyers dream. Instead of doing basic tooth fillings, dental resorts to simply pulling the tooth. There is a mythical dental waiting list for routine dental exams, which must contain every person in the world because I have been in the BOP for over 13 years and have YET to be called to dental for one. No teeth cleanings either. Medical is worse. Painful bone spurs are treated with ibuprofen, Infections with limited supplies of out of date antibiotics, failing vision and cataracts, not at all. Which is not surprising considering that the Assistant Health Service Administrator Funtanio is too busy screwing the captain behind her (now dead from suicide) husbands back. It still amazes me that she even still works here. But then again, who is going to fire her? There is no medical oversite in prison. In addition to all of that, bedside manners for most of the staff at medical is lacking, and is thinly veiled hostility and contempt. Not just contempt for inmates, but for people in general.

RECREATION: Ever lacking in things to do unless you like non-electric exercise bikes. Everything else you can just about do inside the units. Then again, chess, cards and gossip isn't my idea of recreation. For most of the year of 2024, recreation staff have had the large recreation yard closed, so much so that they have resorted to "indoor soccer" played in the basketball gym to appease the latino population. Softball was not

accommodated however. Perhaps staff didn't feel safe with pissed off inmates having bats... Gee, I wonder why. It wouldn't be so bad if recreation was justly closed for actual drone activity, but recreation staff purposely claim they saw one just to get recreation closed so they do not have to work. They would rather spend their time indoors under the air conditioning than be outdoors in South Carolinas humid, sweltering heat. Further issues with recreation is the lack of ability for inmates to gather there to play games such as Dungeons & Dragons, or other TTRPG games simply because the recreation guards don't like the game and will not allow the books to be brought into "their" department.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES: The head chaplain here at FCI WILLIAMSBURG does not allow much accommodations to any religious group outside of her own, and woe unto he who is Jewish, for she will do everything in her power to screw you over. During lockdowns, Jewish inmates are hardly ever brought Sacraments on the Sabbath. Rabbis do not want to even visit because of Chaplain Middletons behavior. Lies spew forth from her mouth needlessly and when inmates try and complain or write her up, she claims she was sexually harassed. (Let this stand as record of that if this zine and its source is brought to her attention) Muslim inmates are treated in much the same way, although not as harshly due to their penchant for fighting back. One good news is that we finally have an assistant chaplain, but he is only allowed to do what she allows him to do.

VISITATION: I personally have had no experience here because I am one of the many (over half of the prison population) that do not get visits. I do not have family that I am in contact with. Prison is not a very fostering environment when it comes to familial ties. Its goal is to separate you from society, and society includes family. Other inmates that do get visits are faced with an uphill battle with the way the BOP and this facility in particular handle visits. I will relay their story here:

"The BOP is famous for preaching that it stands for inmates staying connected to family and loved ones. Despite this declaration the BOP deos everything possible to ensure that visitation is hell for inmate's visitors. For starters, the rules of Do's and Don'ts for visitors is outdated and confusing. Visitors arrive with the best intentions of seeing their loved one only to be turned away at the door because they are wearing attire not approved by the BOP. Visitors are turned away because they cannot clear the metal detector due to wearing a bra with a small metal clasp or underwire. Visitors are being turned away because they cannot clear the metal detector due to having a foreign object in their body due to a surgical implant or other circumstances. These are just a few examples out of many that could be avoided all together if the BOP provided every inmate with clear and concise rules that are current. As it stands now, this does not exist. The BOP's lack of iniative drives a negative experience for visitors and inmates. Top it off with the fact that the BOP does not train their staff for visitation often placing a warm body with no communication skills in visitation to interact with visitors. Visitors are not inmates. They have not been convicted of a crime and sentenced to federal prison, yet the BOP staff treat the visitors as if they are second rate citizens. It is disgraceful and should be corrected immediately. If the BOP's mission is to help inmates become better neighbors upon entering back into society, they should overhaul the visitation system, making it an easier experience for visitors. In addition, train BOP staff working visitation to interact with the public. Improving visitation will be a win for inmates and their families and loved ones."

⁂ ONE LAST WORD ⁂

This is my last chance to get a few words in before I start processing this zine to its final stages and make it in booklet form to mail out. As I do this at the last minute, there will be errors and shortcuts taken. Thank you for your understanding.

This year has been one of dissapointment for some and jubilation for others. The only thing we can do is keep finding new and inventive ways to fight this corrupt system from within AND without. We need to focus on what is helping prop it up, because when that is gone, it will all come tumbling down. The biggest thing propping up the criminal justice system is its secrecy. It operates in the darkness, comfortable in the shadow of its anonymity. I have been reworking the cover of the zine to reflect this. The latin phrase on the cover says "EX UMBRA IN SOLEM", which means "from shadow into sunlight". I am planning on continuing this work when I get out, and will be able to coordinate with many prisoners and prison staff in most prisons. In the mean time, I will work to expose what I and others around me can see. I will endeavor to bring groups together to work on this. I have wrote HUNDREDS of letters to just as many organizations in an effort to do this. Few is the response that I get. As I am on the inside, I am not able to contact these places other than by mail, to which many often do not use due to societies reliance on electronic communication. This is killing the voices from the inside. We do not all have access to e-mail or phone. So please understand this and help amplify our voices. Speak out in our name. Pass our messages on in electronic form for others to see. Help us shed the light to banish the shadows that corruption hides in.

I would like to weigh in on the Hunter Biden pardon if I may. I have NO love for his father. I make that well known because he was the architect of the 1994 Crime Bill that needlessly put more people in prison, effected harsher sentencing, and vastly expanded the reach of the criminal justice system. Can you see the irony of the whole situation where his own son is convicted and pled guilty to drug and gun related charges? I bet you didn't see the mainstream media mention that did you? But personally, I am happy for Hunter Biden, and you should be too because prison is NOT the answer.

I did not get to do the SPOTLIGHT section this year. In its place is the page on Henry David Potwin's book Prisony Land. As he is in another prison, I was not able to interview him. The person I was going to interview at this prison was shipped (like a parcel or package) to another prison. I will do the interviews first from now on and have learned my lesson. Sorry for not having the SPOTLIGHT in this issue.

I get most of my graphics from other media such as magazine and newspaper cutouts. I am limited in what I can get as this is a solo project, I have no outside help, no family support, etc. So this year I did something different and ordered some magazines from a business that provides subscription services to inmates. I did a workup of an ad for them in this zine, check them out if you read magazines. They are worth it. Feel free to mail me any graphics you think I can use.

⁂ SPECIAL THANK YOU to SOKOLOW and SONG, who sent gifts of funding for this project. Please know that your contributions are helping this zine reach more people this year than I was able to mail to in the last two issues combined. Thank You!

Date: 12/10/2024
Time: 07:09:58 PM

TRULINCS Account Transactions - Corr
Personal Inmate Information

Inmate No: 21647075 Inmate Name: NICHOLS, JOSEPH S

Date	Reference #	Transaction Type	Amount
12/04/2024	33324339	Western Union	$100.00
01/21/2024	70100702	Lockbox - CD	$25.00

Rolling Stone and Variety recently hosted the Criminal Justice Reform Summit in Los Angeles. Kim Kardashian and Rapper Meek Mill, along with many others, brought the entertainment, philanthropic, advocacy, and policy making communities together for a conference that reflected on the failed American Criminal Justice System. Their keynote speaker, CNN host and activist Van Jones, said in a statement, "Not only do we face a mass incarceration problem in the United States, but almost 60 percent of inmates currently in prison or jail are racial and ethnic minorities. Uncovering the roots of this national issue and creating a diverse advocacy community is a huge step toward generating legitimate policy change". Other organizations such as the Coalition for Public Safety, the Justice Action Network, #cut50, the Margaret and Daniel Loeb Foundation, ARC, and One Community LLC co-hosted. They have all stepped up to take a stand against the injustice of the Justice System. Many against all reason. When Kim Kardashian's publicist told her "you have to pick a cause, it will make you look good." she picked one that many would have shied away from. "Prison Reform isn't the most popular field to go into, but I always felt people deserve a second chance in life."

HEY! Enjoy these documentaries

THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE (2012) 119 minutes
CIVIL BRAND (2003) 91 minutes

ABOUT ME:
My name is Joseph Shannon Nichols. I am an inmate in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I am a human being, a dreamer, thinker and advocate for many things. I am creative, currious and a lover of art, music and good fun. I am a victim. I am a perpetrator. I am getting well by coming to terms with what I have done and what was done to me. I believe in leaving this world better off than when I came into it and I will be working towards that goal until my dying day. I don't mind that one bit. I also look good in a suit. :)

FEEDBACK WANTED: *Write me and tell me your thoughts on my zine.*

HELP WANTED

TECH SAVY PERSON WITH A COMPUTER AND SCANNER. MUST HAVE INTERNET.

THE INSIDERS ZINE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

If you could find it in your heart to help, please contact me at the address provided.

Thank you in advance for helping this project reach more people

I need help getting these annual zines posted to the website www.archive.org each year.

Joseph Nichols
Reg#: 21647-075
FCI WILLIAMSBURG
P.O. Box 340
Salters, SC 29590

* Only white paper and envelope allowed by policy.

Help Wanted
Local [illegible]

WAITRESS POSITIONS

WANT
PART TIME

SUPPORT THESE ORGANIZATIONS

I have checked and re-checked every organization in this list to ensure that it is still open after the COVID-19 outbreak. However, the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 will continue to be felt, both in and out of prison, for a long time and many places are closed or are being forced to adapt and may be temporarily closed. I suggest that you check online before counting any places with wrong information out.

All of Us or None
4400 Market St · Oakland, CA 94608
415-255-7036 x337 · http://www.allofusornone.org
Grassroots organizing project of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. All of Us or None fights for the full restoration of our civil and human rights of formerly-and currently-incarcerated people and families. They are fighting against the discrimination that people face every day because of arrest or conviction history.

Amnesty International
311 W 43rd St 7th floor · New York, NY 10036
212-807-8400 · http://www.amnestyusa.org
Compiles information regarding prison conditions such as the use of prolonged solitary confinement and other abuses in prison for advocacy purposes; also works on police accountability and ending the death penalty.

Center for Constitutional Rights
666 Broadway 7th floor · New York, NY 10012
212-614-6464 · http://ccrjustice.org
Non-profit legal and educational organization committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change and dedicated to advancing and protecting constitutional rights.

Critical Resistance
P.O. Box 22780 · Oakland, CA 94609-2301
510-444-0484 · http://www.criticalresistance.org
CR seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes everyone safe.

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE)
P.O. Box 2310 · Washington, DC 20013-2310
202-789-2126 · http://www.curenational.org
CURE organizes prisoners, their families and other concerned citizens to achieve reforms in the criminal-justice system.

Death Penalty Information Center
1701 K Street NW Suite 205 · Washington, DC 20006
202-289-2275 · http://deathpenaltyinfo.org
DPIC focuses on disseminating studies and reports related to the death penalty to the news media and general public covering subjects such as race, innocence, politicization, costs of the death penalty, and more.

Families Against Mandatory Minimums
1100 H Street NW, Suite 1000 · Washington, DC 20005
202-822-6700 · http://www.famm.org
Nonprofit organization fighting for fair and proportionate sentencing laws that allow judicial discretion; improved prison conditions; and an increase in compassionate release.

Solitary Watch
PO Box 11374 · Washington, DC 20008
https://solitarywatch.org/
Solitary Watch works to expose and oppose the use of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons and jails.

The Sentencing Project
1705 DeSales Street NW, 8th Floor · Washington, DC 20036
202-628-0871 · http://www.sentencingproject.org
The Sentencing Project is a national policy research and advocacy organization that works for a fair and effective criminal justice system by promoting sentencing reform and alternatives to incarceration.

There are many, many more places out there, both local and national. Work with any you can, but ultimately these places need to work with each other to meet their goals as all prison and criminal justice isses are important to America's future!

ESPERANZACENTER.ORG (They advocate through inmate art shows and sells inmate art.)

PRISONPOLICY.ORG (Works to change bad prison policy and introduce beneficial policy.)

TRUTHOUT.ORG (They expose prison and other issues through online articles.)

REALCOSTOFPRISONS.ORG (Highlights what having prisons costs you, and not just money.)

PRISONACTIVIST.ORG (A hub of resources for prison activists and inmates alike.)

MORETHANOURCRIMES.ORG (Humanizes inmates through inmate writing and direct activism.)

PRISONLIVESMATTER.NET (Works to educate people on both sides of the wall about prison.)

RIGHTSBEHINDBARS.ORG (Works with inmates to challenge cruel and inhumane conditions.)

NATIONINSIDE.ORG (Helps advocates build movements to challenge mass incarceration.)

ACLU
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

ACLU.ORG

GET THE WORD OUT!!!

OPENTHEBOOKS.COM
A NON-PARTISAN, NON-PROFIT ADVOCATE FOR GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY.

HEARD

BEHEARDDC.ORG

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER
Dedicated to Protecting Human Rights
www.HumanRightsDefenseCenter.org

PRISON LIVES MATTER

PRISONLIVESMATTER.NET

You can download the PDFs at...

www.archive.org/details/the-insiders-zine3/
www.archive.org/details/the-insiders-zine2/
www.archive.org/details/the-insiders-zine/

JAILHOUSE LAWYERS SPEAK

JAILHOUSELAWYERSSPEAK.COM

the REMEDY PROJECT

THEREMEDYPROJ.ORG

These are just a few of the many places that stand and fight for criminal justice and prison reforms.

If you are looking to get into the fight, contact them today!

RBB
RIGHTS BEHIND BARS

RIGHTSBEHINDBARS.ORG

NATION INSIDE
END MASS INCARCERATION

NATIONINSIDE.ORG

The Fortune Society
BUILDING PEOPLE, NOT PRISONS

FORTUNESOCIETY.ORG

CRITICAL RESISTANCE

CRITICALRESISTANCE.ORG

MORE THAN OUR CRIMES

MORETHANOURCRIMES.ORG

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